



# **Naval Station Ingleside**

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## **Ironman takes the field**

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MCM Crew Impervious PAO

An Ingleside Sailor is moving off the ship onto the diamond. He'll be shifting his focus from cooking for his shipmates to catching behind homeplate.

CSSN Matt Ward of the MCM Crew Impervious, serving on board USS Avenger (MCM 1), is one of only 25 active duty Navy personnel who have made the All Navy Baseball Team.

For his spot on the team, he had to compete with more than 100 other Navy personnel during three tryouts held in April.

"I have been playing ball since I was 7 years old – for 13 years now," Ward said. He added that he joined the Navy to play baseball and for the educational benefits.

"I wasn't looked at by anyone (college scout) from my high school," Ward added. "So I decided that the best thing for me to do was to join the Navy, and get bigger, faster, and stronger, so when I do get out (of the Navy) down the road, I will still have eligibility to play."

Through August -- a total of 50 games – there will be opportunities for Ward to be scouted by professional team scouts. Ward's off to a good start – the Navy Team won their first game, May 1, against the L.A. Dodger Scout team.

While he's playing and living in San Diego, Calif., his fellow Ironmen left back on USS Avenger will keep a close watch on their shipmate and wish him all the best.

USS Avenger is the lead ship of the Avenger Class (MCM 1) ships, oceangoing vessels designed as mine hunter-killers capable of finding, classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. They use sonar and video systems, cable cutters and a mine-detonating device that can be released and detonated by remote control. They are also capable of conventional sweeping measures. The ships are 224-feet long fiberglass sheathed, wooden hull construction and carry a crew of approximately 80 Sailors. USS Avenger is homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.